

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. - 11. (cancelled)

12. (previously submitted) Apparatus for reading a data stream, which comprises a multitude of raster points as reference points, the raster points specifying a raster, two adjacent raster points defining a segment, wherein the data stream comprises a plurality of sets of code words, a first set of code words being written in the first direction and a second set of code words being written in a second direction, the code words of the second set being assigned to segments of the data stream in accordance with a predetermined assignment rule, such that each code word of a set being assigned to a different segment, wherein a code word of the second set is distributed over more than one segment in accordance with a predetermined rule, the apparatus comprising:

a first device for reading in a first direction of reading which corresponds to the first direction of writing;

a second device for reading in a second direction of reading which is opposite to the first direction of reading; and

a control device

for supplying the code words of the first set to the first reading device, each code word of the first set starting at the first raster point of a segment, and

for supplying the code words of the second set to the second reading device, wherein one jumps to the second raster point of a segment in accordance with the predetermined assignment rule, and

wherein the control device is adapted for jumping at least to a further segment different from the segment, in which the part of the code word of the second set has been found, in accordance with the predetermined rule, when all segments have been searched for code words of the second set in accordance with the predetermined assignment rule and at least only a part of the code word of the second set has been found in a segment and the code word of the second set is still not complete, and

wherein the control device is adapted for obtaining the at least one code word of the second set completely or a further part of the at least one code word of the second set from the further segment.

13. (cancelled)

14. (previously submitted) Apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein, if only one starting section of a code word is read by a writing device in one segment, this starting section is stored.
15. (previously submitted) Apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein the code words are Huffman code words.
16. (previously submitted) Apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein the code words represent information symbols and wherein code words of the first set represent more significant information symbols than code words of the second set or of further sets.
17. (original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 16, wherein the information symbols are spectral values of an audio signal, and wherein the code words of the first set are spectral values which are significant from a psycho-acoustic point of view and which are to be protected from error propagation due to a transmission error in the data stream.
18. (cancelled)
19. (previously submitted) Method for reading a data stream which comprises a multitude of raster points as reference points, the raster points specifying a raster, two adjacent raster points defining a segment, in which method the data stream comprises a plurality of sets of code words, a first set of code words being written in the first direction and a second set of code

words being written in a second direction, the code words of the second set being assigned to segments of the data stream in accordance with a predetermined assignment rule, such that each code word of a set is assigned to a different segment, wherein a code word of the second set is distributed over more than one segment in accordance with a predetermined regulation, the method comprising:

reading the code words of the first set, starting from a first raster point of a segment, in a first direction of reading which corresponds to the first direction of writing;

reading the code words of the second set, starting from a second raster point of a segment, in a second direction of reading which is opposite to the first direction of reading, wherein it is jumped, for reading the code words of the second set, to the second raster point of a segment in accordance with the predetermined assignment rule, and

when all segments have been searched for code words of the second set in accordance with the predetermined assignment rule and only a part of the code word of the second set has been found in a segment and the code word of the second set is still not complete, jumping to at least one further segment different from the segment, in which the part of the code word of the second set has been found, in accordance with the predetermined rule, and obtaining the at least one code word of the second set completely or a part of the at least one code word from the further segment.

20. (new) Apparatus for reading a data stream, which comprises a multitude of raster points as reference points, the raster points specifying a raster, two adjacent raster points defining a segment, wherein the data stream comprises a plurality of sets of code words, a first set of code words being written in the first direction and a second set of code words being written in a second direction, the code words of the second set being assigned to segments of the data stream in accordance with a predetermined assignment rule, such that each code word of a set being assigned to a different segment, wherein a code word of the second set is distributed over more than one segment in accordance with a predetermined rule, the apparatus comprising:

a first device for reading in a first direction of reading which corresponds to the first direction of writing;

a second device for reading in a second direction of reading which is opposite to the first direction of reading; and

a control device

for supplying the code words of the first set to the first reading device, each code word of the first set starting at the first raster point of a segment, and

for supplying the code words of the second set to the second reading device, wherein one jumps to the second raster point of a segment in accordance with the predetermined assignment rule, and

wherein the control device is adapted for jumping at least to a further segment different from the segment, in which the part of the code word of the second set has been found, in accordance with the predetermined rule, when all segments have been searched for code words of the second set in accordance with the predetermined assignment rule and at least only a part of the code word of the second set has been found in a segment and the code word of the second set is still not complete, and

wherein the control device is adapted for obtaining the at least one code word of the second set completely or a further part of the at least one code word of the second set from the further segment; and

a decoder for decoding the code words of the first set and the code words of the second set.

21. (new) Method for reading a data stream which comprises a multitude of raster points as reference points, the raster points specifying a raster, two adjacent raster points defining a segment, in which method the data stream comprises a plurality of sets of code words, a first set of code words being written in the first direction and a second set of code words being written in a second direction, the code words of the second set being assigned to segments of the data stream in accordance with a

predetermined assignment rule, such that each code word of a set is assigned to a different segment, wherein a code word of the second set is distributed over more than one segment in accordance with a predetermined regulation, the method comprising:

reading the code words of the first set, starting from a first raster point of a segment, in a first direction of reading which corresponds to the first direction of writing;

reading the code words of the second set, starting from a second raster point of a segment, in a second direction of reading which is opposite to the first direction of reading, wherein it is jumped, for reading the code words of the second set, to the second raster point of a segment in accordance with the predetermined assignment rule, and

when all segments have been searched for code words of the second set in accordance with the predetermined assignment rule and only a part of the code word of the second set has been found in a segment and the code word of the second set is still not complete, jumping to at least one further segment different from the segment, in which the part of the code word of the second set has been found, in accordance with the predetermined rule, and obtaining the at least one code word of the second set completely or a part of the at least one code word from the further segment; and

decoding the code words of the first set and the code words of the second set.